

# The Bigger Picture

## Doing Church Differently

7th June 2020

### Welcome

Welcome to the 8th The Bigger Picture. We hope it will inspire you and help you to connect with God this week.

May the Lord bless you.

Mike & Sharon

### Word for the week

Words of wisdom from our Pastor, Mike...

Most of us have realised in lockdown that, in normal circumstances, we take all kinds of things for granted. Take walking on long distance trails for instance. Since, we were given back the freedom to indulge in unlimited walking, I have completed 3 walks totalling 70 miles on Derbyshire's 'railway' paths. My passion for this activity has not been deterred by blistered feet, a shortage of facilities and some very early starts and late finishes.

As a Christian, I am left wondering whether I am as dedicated to Jesus as I am to walking in the countryside. How much inconvenience would I put up with to ensure that I spend time every day in prayer, Bible Study, worship and, if an opportunity presents itself, to sharing the gospel? Would I be prepared to put something else on hold to contact that lonely or needy person?

Of course, we all need God's help to consistently do his will especially when it involves us having to make sacrifices. We've just celebrated Pentecost when God poured out his Holy Spirit on his church. Did you know that the Holy Spirit can help us to defeat our natural selfishness, love people we don't like and treasure Christ above everyone and everything else?

We all take so many things for granted and it's a shock when they're taken away from us. But the Bible says that nothing can separate the believer from the love of Christ. So that's one thing you can take for granted but remember he showers his love on you so that you can shower your love on others.



### CONNECT

#### Sunday 7th June

**Sermon** - 'Standing Firm', looking at 1 Thessalonians 2: 17- 3: 13 - <https://youtu.be/7n5IGqqu5gE>

**A short message** on memorials - <https://youtu.be/IVdYSMrBbuA>

#### Thursday 11th June

**10.30am - Encounter** - Bible Study on Zoom - Mike will lead us in a study of Psalm 1.

#### Sunday 14th June

**10.30am - Worship & Praise** - a church gathering on Zoom, including, a short talk by Mike, and songs chosen and led by Linda.

### Church at Home

On the MRBC website are resources for families who want to worship together.

This week the worship is based on Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine, with and all age talk, a creative prayer activity, worship songs and Communion.

[www.mrb-church.org.uk/children-and-families-on-sunday/](http://www.mrb-church.org.uk/children-and-families-on-sunday/)

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

*(Romans 12:2)*

## Psalm 19

Mike's thoughts on Psalm 19, this week looking at verses 7 to 11....

### The Clarity of Scripture

'Two things', according to Kant, 'fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe... the starry heavens above and the moral law within.' This Psalm eloquently glories about the former in the first stanza, as we saw last week, and poetically delights in God's word and his laws in the second stanza.

#### Psalm 19:7-11

<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup>The precepts of the Lord are right,  
giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the Lord are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.  
The decrees of the Lord are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.

<sup>10</sup>They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup>By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

### Prayer Walking

*For your encouragement, Elaine B shares a recent experience....*

"On Monday 1st June after parking my car at my mum's (Barbara's) bungalow I cut through to the hospital to go to work. I was praying.

Outside the side entrance to the hospital a lady had her hands up, I said to her you are praying, Praise God, this lady was part of the Open heaven prayer initiative.

I pray throughout the month of June we will be able to testify of the amazing things our God will do through this time."

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If you haven't already committed to prayer walking a street in June, speak to Terry to find out if there are streets still available.

Six facets of revelation are presented which bring God's will to bear on the reader and demand intelligent reverence, well-founded trust and detailed obedience. The psalmist tells us that God's book of rules is like honeycomb and God's laws are like honey! Did you know that my favourite chocolate bar has honeycomb inside!?

David sometimes spectacularly failed to keep God's laws, yet despite his patchy compliance record, he was also able to share his first hand experience of the benefits of obeying God's commands. He testifies that co-operating with God 'refreshes the soul', 'gives light to the eyes' and 'gives joy to the heart'.

We 21st century Christians are sometimes a bit disparaging about the references to God's laws in the Old Testament but that is perhaps because we get confused between God's ceremonial law, which is now largely irrelevant, and God's moral law which is the grounding for us to,

*'do justly, love tenderly and  
walk humbly with our God'*

(Micah 6: 8).



If you aren't prayer walking, please pray for those who are. Pray for God's wisdom and leading, pray for protection and spiritual sensitivity, and pray they have the courage and words to take opportunities as they present themselves and to pray for people they pass in the street.

### Bless this City

Whenever you are out walking, or watching the people and traffic outside your window, pray a blessing upon all you see. Simply repeat this ancient blessing from Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace."

*"I will pour out my Spirit on all people"*

# Prayer & Praise for the Week

## Prayer Pointers

*This week please pray for*

- Sunday** Chris V's husband Eddie who has to make an important decision over an operation— only God knows the end from the beginning so please pray for God's leading and that Eddie may find Jesus in the midst.
- Monday** [the church meeting at 7.30pm, as we meet on zoom for the first time.](#)
- Tuesday** the Cherubs leader, Sharon R and her husband Martin who has recently lost his father.
- Wednesday** [people who have been furloughed and are worried about job security, and finances. Also, for people who are looking for a job at this time.](#)
- Thursday** people reliant on the foodbank — pray for their situation, that they may find God and find comfort and leading in through a difficult time. Also, pray for the people running the foodbanks and give thanks for those who donate food to the foodbank.
- Friday** [Terry R as he goes for a Coronavirus test today, ahead of keyhole surgery on 15th June. While he is under anaesthetic, the surgeon will look for cancer, and if discovered, he will remove more of Terry's lung.](#)
- Saturday** Glo who has had health problems for several months and is being advised that she may have COPD. Pray for a definitive diagnosis soon and for God's healing touch.



## Sing Your Praises to the LORD 🎵 🎵

*A week of worship from worship leader, Helen.*

One morning a few days ago, there was the aroma of fresh rain. A lovely aroma after the days of glorious sunshine. The rain was certainly needed in my garden!

This got me thinking, how much more so than the land needs the rain, we need the refreshing and refilling of the Holy Spirit every day. As you worship, take time to wait on the Lord and receive his abundant blessings.

“O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.”

(Psalm 63:1-4)

### **Worship songs for this week....**

(click on the title)

[Great is thy faithfulness](#)

[Forever Jesus](#)

[Your love shining like the sun](#)

[Be still for the presence of the Lord](#)

[Revive us](#)

[The Father's Song](#)

[Lord I come to you](#)

*Playlist links:-*

[YouTube playlist](#)

[Spotify playlist](#)

